

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework comprising the steps of:
 - 3 (a) identifying at least one alliance among a plurality of business entities in terms of
4 components of a current network framework;
 - 5 (b) displaying a pictorial representation of the current network framework and the
6 components; and
 - 7 (c) conveying the at least one alliance by indicia coding the components of the
8 current network framework in which the at least one alliance exists.
- 1 2. A method for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least
3 one alliance that is conveyed relates to features of the components of the current
4 network framework.
- 1 3. A method for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework as recited in claim 2, wherein the features
3 are listed in terms of the components to which the features relate.
- 1 4. A method for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework as recited in claim 3, wherein the features
3 are indicia coded to convey the at least one alliance.
- 1 5. A method for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework as recited in claim 1, wherein the
3 components of the current network framework are selected from the group of
4 components including security services, network services, web services, client

5 services, integration capabilities, data services, directory services, management
6 services, operation services, and developer services.

1 6. A method for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework as recited in claim 1, wherein the
3 components of the current network framework are selected from the group of
4 components including commerce-related services, content-related services,
5 administration-related services, customer-related services, and education-related
6 services.

1 7. A method for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework as recited in claim 1, wherein the indicia
3 coding is selected from the group of indicia coding including texture coding,
4 color coding, and shading coding.

1 8. A method for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework as recited in claim 1, wherein the current
3 network framework is a web architecture framework.

1 9. A method for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework as recited in claim 1, wherein a legend is
3 presented which defines the indicia coding with respect to the business entities.

1 10. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for identifying
2 alliances among a plurality of business entities in components of a network
3 framework comprising:

4 (a) a code segment that identifies at least one alliance among a plurality of business
5 entities in terms of components of a current network framework;

6 (b) a code segment that displays a pictorial representation of the current network
7 framework and the components; and

8 (c) a code segment that conveys the at least one alliance by indicia coding the
9 components of the current network framework in which the at least one alliance
10 exists.

1 11. A computer program for identifying alliances among a plurality of business
2 entities in components of a network framework as recited in claim 10, wherein
3 the at least one alliance that is conveyed relates to features of the components of
4 the current network framework.

1 12. A computer program for identifying alliances among a plurality of business
2 entities in components of a network framework as recited in claim 11, wherein
3 the features are listed in terms of the components to which the features relate.

1 13. A computer program for identifying alliances among a plurality of business
2 entities in components of a network framework as recited in claim 12, wherein
3 the features are indicia coded to convey the at least one alliance.

1 14. A computer program for identifying alliances among a plurality of business
2 entities in components of a network framework as recited in claim 10, wherein
3 the components of the current network framework are selected from the group of
4 components including security services, network services, web services, client
5 services, integration capabilities, data services, directory services, management
6 services, operation services, and developer services.

1 15. A computer program for identifying alliances among a plurality of business
2 entities in components of a network framework as recited in claim 10, wherein
3 the components of the current network framework are selected from the group of
4 components including commerce-related services, content-related services,
5 administration-related services, customer-related services, and education-related
6 services.

- 1 16. A computer program for identifying alliances among a plurality of business
2 entities in components of a network framework as recited in claim 10, wherein
3 the indicia coding is selected from the group of indicia coding including texture
4 coding, color coding, and shading coding.
- 1 17. A computer program for identifying alliances among a plurality of business
2 entities in components of a network framework as recited in claim 10, wherein
3 the current network framework is a web architecture framework.
- 1 18. A computer program for identifying alliances among a plurality of business
2 entities in components of a network framework as recited in claim 10, wherein a
3 legend is presented which defines the indicia coding with respect to the business
4 entities.
- 1 19. A system for identifying alliances among a plurality of business entities in
2 components of a network framework comprising:
 - 3 (a) logic for identifying at least one alliance among a plurality of business entities in
4 terms of components of a current network framework;
 - 5 (b) logic for displaying a pictorial representation of the current network framework
6 and the components; and
 - 7 (c) logic for conveying the at least one alliance by indicia coding the components of
8 the current network framework in which the at least one alliance exists.